

South Park master of ceremonies was Ted Morgan, who walked the festive crowd through such intricate steps as the grindstone figure in the Lithuanian Mill Dance.

A REPORT FROM SEATLLE, WASH. Mrs. Reynold Loesch

The Russian Language Club at the University of Washington has organized a folk dance club under the direction of Vern and Marilyn Mallory. Vern and his wife (ex-Californians) are avid folk-dancers.

Eleanor King has left for a personal appearance tour and will not be back in Seattle until April of next year. Some of her associates have banded together to form the Cooperative Dace Studio teaching Modern Dance, Ballet, Kabuki (Japanese classic), Tap, Ballroom, and International Folk Dancing. Dudley Davidson and Betty Fento of the Welkin Ringers are in charge of the folk dancing class.

On November 17th the YMCA had a World Fellowship Carnival. Scandia Club's dance presentation was superb as always. The Japanese and Scotch dances were well performed. Virgie Smestad has won many cups in Highland competitions. The six Austrian dancers were the biggest disappointment. Maybe I was anticipating too much.

On November 19th the Roger Ernesti's troupe doing authentic Indian dances performed before a large and appreciative audience in Bellevue, Washington near the town of Kirkland. Their two sons and Gloria Wiggers and Bill Holm appeared with them. Bill Holm had just returned from Sweden where he appeared with twelve members of the University of Washington's Scandia Club who toured Sweden this summer presenting American folk dances and in turn learning more Swedish dances. Everyone says Bill Holm's Indian dances were the hit of the tour.

On November 21st the University of Washington YW and YMCA held an International Thanksgiving Dinner for all foreign students on the campus. The dancing and singing was wonderful. The Estonians running polka won my heart. Rene was again enthralled by the Basque dances. I certainly wish there was someone from whom he could learn these dances. The grandest part of the evening though, was the opportunity to meet and talk with all the different foreign students who are truly making the Univ. of Washington an international campus. We have about 525 foreign students enrolled this term.

On December 2nd we saw Sujata and Asoka dancers from India at the Metropolitan Theatre. The crowd was very small, but appreciative. We were spell-bound. The music was as fascinating as their costumes.

UNITED NATIONS FESTIVAL
Gym Of The New Barrington High School
Dances In Native Costumes Representing
★ Lithuania ★ American Squares
★ Norway ★ European Court Dances
★ Germans from Rheinlander ★ Russia
★ Saturday, February 17, 1951, 8:00 P.M.
Contribution - \$1.20, tax included

AGGIE HAYLOFTERS FESTIVAL

The "Aggie Haylofters", square dance club of Colorado A and M College, are planning their fourth annual Square Dance Festival to be held here in Ft. Collins, on the Colorado, 2nd and 3rd of March.

The program for the weekend will start with a big evening of square dancing, exhibitions, and entertainment on Friday, March 2nd, from 7:30 to 12 P.M. in the men's gymnasium at 901 South College Ave., and will be open to anyone that likes to dance or watch. On Saturday we are planning to have various sessions of folk dancing, couple dancing, and square dancing going on throughout the day which will provide an opportunity for all those wishing to learn the new dances, calls, etc., or brush up on the old ones to get together with some of the best dancers from Colorado and the surrounding states. Callers will have a chance to swap calls and "talk shop" while the dancers get acquainted with the other people from this area and their dances. Then on Saturday night March 3rd from 7:30 to 12 P.M. will be another big open square dance, more exhibitions, and more fun for everyone there.

As before this dance is free of charge.

THE CIURLIONIS ENSEMBLE

The CIURLIONIS ENSEMBLE, composed of singers, dancers and instrument players, celebrated their 10th anniversary in December in Cleveland, Ohio's Little Theatre. The organization, considered the most classic and finest among the Lithuanians, was organized in 1940 in Vilna, Lithuania. With the approach of the second Russian invasion, the group fled to Germany. Inspite of terrible deprivations and hunger they managed to stick together and keep the Lithuanian folk song and folk dance alive, cheering with their renditions the saddened hearts of their suffering brethren. Their brilliant presentations won for the Lithuanian many friends among the ruling classes of the occupational forces in Germany; the Americans, French and British. The group arrived to the United States in 1949 and have already gained an enviable reputation with their superb presentations.

The director of the Ensemble is Mr. Alfas Mikulskis. During the Nazi occupation of Lithuania he had to flee Vilna and be in hiding. Nine members of the Ensemble were victims of the Nazis (3) and Bolsheviks (6). To Mr. Mikulskis and the Ciurlionis Ensemble we extend Ilgaiusiu ir Linksmiausiu Metu. May their song and dance echo in the finest theatres of the U. S. and their reputation ring throughout the world.

17th Annual THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

April 12, 13, 14, and 15th 1951
OPERA HOUSE — KIEL M'P'L AUDITORIUM

THE MEETING PLACE OF FOLK DANCERS and SINGERS

— from —
EVERY SECTION OF AMERICA
— of —

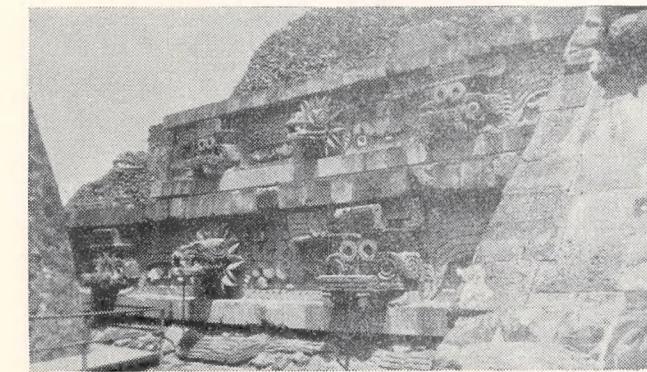
ALL DESCENTS AND TRADITIONS

Write: Sarah Gertrude Knott or M. J. Pickering
National Folk Festival Association
Room 214 — 706 Chestnut St., St. Louis 1, Mo.

MEXICO, LA LINDISIMA PAIS

V. F. Beliajus

(NOTE: The article on Mexico is being printed in three installments. 1) General Information in the December issue; 2) Churches, Shrines and Pyramids in the Jan.-February issue; 3) Fiestas and Miscellany in the March-April issue.)



IN TEOTIHUACAN

Above view, taken by Francis Hanson, shows the temple of Quetzalcoatl (Feathered Serpent) Teotihuacan in the valley of Mexico. Besides this temple there is the enormous Pyramid to the sun, a trifle smaller one to the moon, an immense quadrangle called "La Ciudadela" (The Citadel) and vestiges of other building.

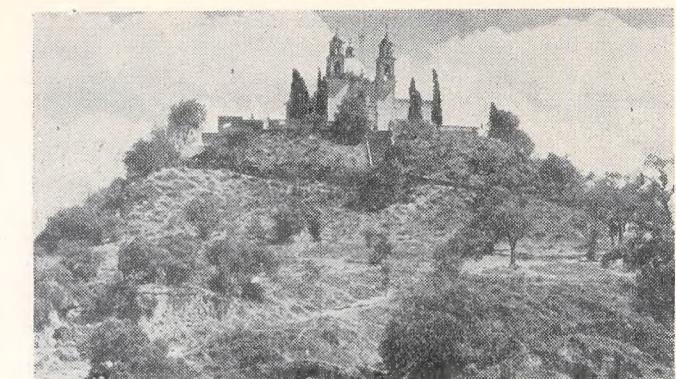
(Continued From Last Month)

Pyramids Outshine Egypt's

Mexico, not Egypt, can justly be called the "Land of Pyramids". People would be surprised to learn that pyramids dot Mexico like a forest. Egypt could not even hold a candle against Mexico. One would need months to go through only the uncovered pyramids. The magnitude of some, the beauty of others and the uniqueness of still others are things of amazement which people appreciate of the accomplishments of the past, should remain speechless out of sheer admiration for the past civilization.

One does not know which pyramid to recommend that a person, visiting Mexico, should see. The most popular, because of their accessibility, are the pyramids of Teotihuacan, an amazing array of temples, pyramids and palace compounds. Less accessible, but not to be missed, are the pyramids of Tula (also of Toltec civilization) with its giant statuary; Calixtlahuaca (still not too accessible); Tenayuca, with its magnificent frescos and "Edifice of Serpents" built by the Chichimecs; Teopanzolco; Xochicalco; Tajin; Mitla; and the Mayan temples of Chichen Itza and Labna. These are but a few of the countless number, each of which would need pages upon pages of description and pictures.

I will linger a bit on Cholula, a town located near Puebla. Cholula is a small town, dirty, neglected and in bad state as far as the streets and roads leading to it are concerned. However, it has been famous in pre-Cortezian times and is also famous in the present. Before the discovery of the Pyramids in 1931, cholula was noted for the incredible and unbelievable amount of churches found in the locality; it lays claim to 365, a church for each day of the year, with a population of hardly 20 people per church. The churches are not little edifices but large, and some are immense. As one approaches Cholula he will see a large mountain crowned with a



THE WORLD'S LARGEST HAND MADE MOUNTAIN

Underneath this mountain in Cholula are buried seven pyramids of seven different Indian civilizations, one over the other. The height of the hill is hard to visualize by the picture. Read the details below.

church on its summit. No one would ever dream that this huge mountain is all hand made (The largest artificial mountain in the world). Because no one suspected the mountain to be nothing but mountain the discovery of pyramids underneath it was made as late as 1931. Seven civilizations, foremost among them the Teotihuacan, Toltec, Mixtec and Aztec, built pyramids on the spot that is now a mountain. Cholula was once the most sacred spot in all Mexico to which various Amerindian nations paid due respects, but the location of the artificial mountain was the holiest of all.

When the Aztecs, who then inhabited that spot during the conquest, heard of the Spaniards coming, whose reputation as murderers and destroyers preceded them, the Indians from the entire region set out to hide their sacred place from the eyes of the Christians; this they did by bringing earth and dirt and completely buried the temple. When, years later, the Spaniards arrived, (naturally, after looting and rapine completed), they set out to build churches on the spots of destroyed temples. Because there were many sacred Amerindian temples many churches arose, all built by the enslaved Indians. The hill in Cholula was the highest spot in the vicinity, so it also merited a large church. The above photo can barely convey the height of the hill, but it is quite a climb. Many of the rocks in the stone-laid stairway are from



A PYRAMID IN YOUR BACKYARD

This is one of the little (?) pyramids outside Mexico City near Santa Cecilia. Note how the cacti is planted for fencing.